

Partnership members

Academy for Educational Development
Advocates for Youth
Alan Guttmacher Institute
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Health Plans
American College of OB/GYN
American Indian Health Care Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nurses Foundation
American Pharmaceutical Association
American Public Health Association
American Social Health Association
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Congress of National Black Churches
Girls Incorporated
Health Resources and Services Administration
Indian Health Service
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People
National Assn. of Community Health Centers
National Assn. of County and City Health Officials
National Assn. of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health
National Assn. of People with AIDS
National Coalition of Hispanic Health & Human Services Organizations
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Council of Churches
National Council of La Raza
National Council of Negro Women
National Education Association
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Lesbian & Gay Health Association
National Medical Association
National Network for Youth
National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers
National Urban League
National Women's Health Network
North American Society for Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology

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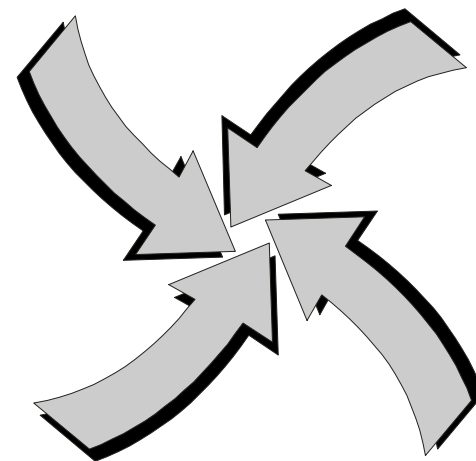
Office of the Asst. Secretary for Planning & Evaluation (DHHS)
Office of Population Affairs
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
United States Conference of Mayors
YMCA of the U.S.A.
YWCA of the U.S.A.

The STD Prevention Partnership is a group of national organizations with shared concern about the continuing spread of STDs, including HIV. Its mission is to support and encourage partnerships among the private, voluntary, and public sectors in developing and implementing strategies to reduce the incidence and impact of STDs. Membership in the STD Prevention Partnership does not necessarily imply endorsement of this statement by each individual organization participating in the Partnership. For more information, write to:

*STD Prevention Partnership
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Atlanta, GA 30333*

or E-mail jel6@cdc.gov

STD Services: An Essential Intervention to Prevent HIV Infection

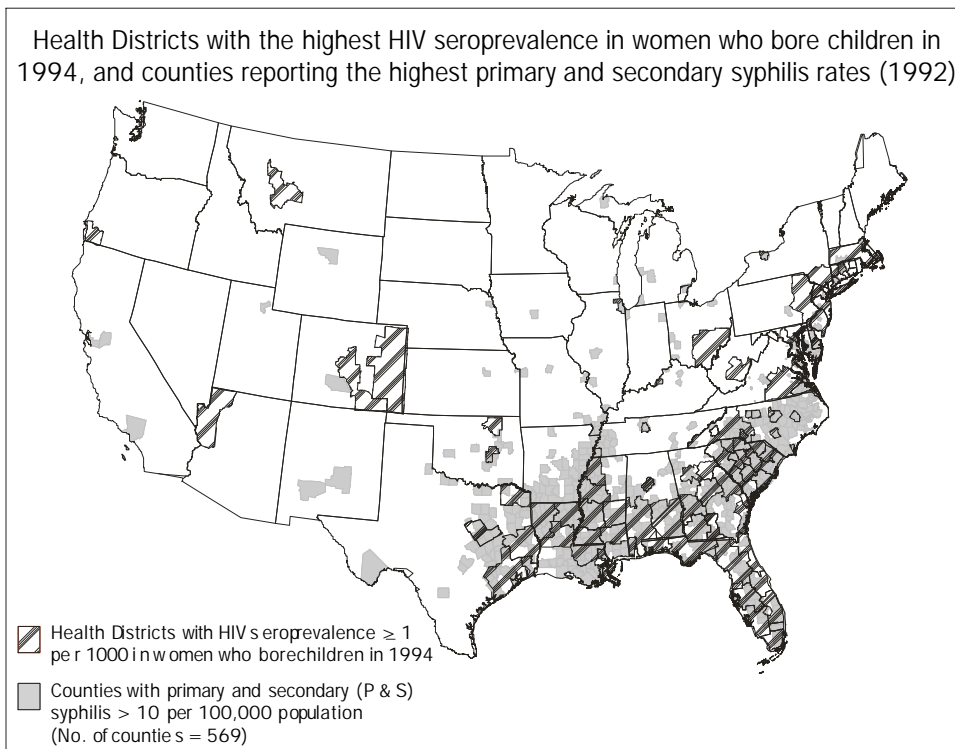


Statement from the
STD Prevention Partnership
March 1999

In the past few years, researchers have found that sexually transmitted diseases play a significant role in HIV transmission and acquisition. This connection between HIV and other STDs is particularly important for women because they are most likely to acquire HIV via heterosexual contacts. In the two year period ending June 30, 1997, 54 % of women with AIDS under age 25 acquired HIV infection through heterosexual transmission. Experts believe that most of these women were infected during their adolescent years. Furthermore, the spread of HIV in the U.S. through sexual transmission has followed the footsteps of other STDs. Most of the health districts with the highest rates of syphilis and gonorrhea also have the highest rates of HIV prevalence among childbearing women (see map). STD prevention programs targeted to high-risk populations would have a dramatic impact on slowing the rate of HIV transmission in the U.S.

The landmark 1996 Institute of Medicine report entitled *The Hidden Epidemic: Confronting Sexually Transmitted Diseases* stated that "...improved prevention of STDs should be an essential component of a national strategy for preventing sexually transmitted HIV infection." Researchers have accumulated strong biomedical evidence supporting this strategy. Following are examples of what we have learned from some of the most important research.

► **Evidence shows that treating STDs reduces HIV infections.** For example, one study examined the connection between syphilis and HIV. According to the study, it is estimated that "... successfully treating or preventing 100 cases of syphilis among high-risk groups for STDs would prevent 1,200 HIV infections that are ordinarily linked to those 100 syphilis infections during a 10-year period."



► **Having an STD increases a person's susceptibility to HIV.** Researchers have shown that individuals infected with an STD are as much as 5 times more likely to acquire HIV infection than those who are not infected with the STD (see chart). This increased susceptibility dramatically affects adolescents in the U.S. One in four sexually active adolescents has an

STD. Sixty percent of gonorrhea infections and 75% of chlamydia infections in the U.S. are among persons 15-24 years of age.

► **STD infection increases a person's ability to transmit HIV.** Studies have shown that when HIV-infected individuals are also infected with other STDs, they are more likely to transmit HIV to others. Treating the STD in HIV-infected men who are concurrently infected with HIV and gonorrhea has been shown to decrease the level of HIV in their semen eightfold.

► **Comprehensive STD care can reduce HIV transmission.** In 1995, researchers found that providing STD treatment to a heterosexual population reduced HIV incidence by 42% compared to communities where STD treatment was not readily available.

Recommendations: Accessible high quality STD detection and treatment services should be an essential component of effective HIV prevention programs. Increased public and private funding for STD services is critical to halting the HIV epidemic.

STD	Increased Risk of Acquiring HIV
Chlamydia	3-5 times
Genital Herpes	3-6 times
Gonorrhea	3-5 times
Syphilis	3-4 times
Trichomoniasis	2-4 times